

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 12-15, 17-24, 27-32 are pending in the application. Claims 16, 25-26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The other claims have been amended to better define the claimed invention. New claims 28-32 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The amended/new claims find solid support in the original specification and drawings, especially FIGs. 3-4. The Abstract has been placed in compliance with commonly accepted US patent practice. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The objection to the Abstract is believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The art rejections relying primarily on *Reese* are noted. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Office's position, amendments have nevertheless been made solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution.

Specifically, independent **claim 1** now recites, among other things, that "said first and second cam followers are interconnected by a spring arrangement simultaneously urging both said cam followers toward each other to engage the cam surface of said constant velocity cam; and wherein the reciprocatory motion of said first and second pistons are free of spring action." In other words, the claimed invention requires that spring action be used to urging the cam followers against the constant velocity cam, rather than to effect reciprocatory motion of the pistons. This feature finds support in at least FIGs. 3-4 where it is illustrated that reciprocatory motion of the piston rods 24/25 is neither assisted nor resisted by any spring. The disclosed springs 34/41 are for urging the cam followers against the constant velocity cam, rather than for moving the pistons.

In contrast, *Reese* discloses piston springs 28/30 which resist upward motion of the respective pistons 20/22 in the pumping stroke and which assist downward motion of the pistons 20/22 in the suction stroke. Likewise, the most relevant teaching reference of *Bowen* discloses a similar configuration with similar piston springs 34/125.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that even if the references were combinable (which Applicants contend to the contrary), the combination would still lack the claim feature at issue, since none of the applied references appear to fairly teach or suggest the claim feature. Amended claim 1 is thus patentable over the applied art of record.

Independent **claim 27** now recites, among other things, “at least a guide rail extending parallel to an axis of the axially aligned pistons; and first and second cam followers slidable along said guide rail and coupled to said first and second pistons, respectively.” The claim feature finds support in at least FIGs. 3-4, at elements 28-29.

The provision of a guide rail for the cam followers is neither disclosed, taught nor suggested in any of the applied references. More particularly, in both *Reese* and *Bowen*, the cam followers are guided by the respective pistons, rather than by a separate guide rail. This prior arrangement requires accurate assembly and/or causes excessive wear on the piston rings since the pistons are directly subject to the cam motion. In contrast, by providing a guide rail for the cam followers in the claimed invention, the guiding function is taken, either partially or wholly, off the pistons, thereby increasing the life span of the assembly’s components, e.g., the piston rings.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that even if the references were combinable (which Applicants contend to the contrary), the combination would still lack the claim feature at issue, since none of the applied references appear to fairly teach or suggest the claim feature. Amended claim 27 is thus patentable over the applied art of record.

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The **dependent claims**, including any new claim(s), are considered patentable at least for the reason(s) advanced with respect to the respective independent claim(s).

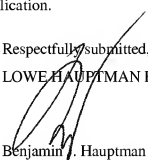
As to **new claims 28-32**, the applied references do not fairly teach or suggest the claimed configurations with dual guide rails and/or cam follower sliders and/or captive ball joints and/or brackets and compression springs which all find support in the relevant elements of FIGs. 3-4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 28-32 are separately patentable.

Each of the rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP


Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

USPTO Customer No. 33712
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
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BJH/KL/tal